

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An axial shaft seal disposed between a housing wall and a rotating shaft, the axial shaft seal comprising:

an outer ring insertable into the housing wall in a stationary and sealing manner, the outer ring including a sleeve including a polymer material having a curved bellows form and providing a spring, the curved bellows form extending radially inward over its entire length, a radially inward end portion of the sleeve having a first sealing surface; and

an inner ring connectable to the shaft in a non-twisting and sealing manner and including a ring flange extending radially outward so as to provide a second sealing surface for axially mating the first sealing surface,

wherein the spring urges the first sealing surface against the second sealing surface; and

the inward end portion deviates from a radial normal direction by up to a maximum of 30°, when not axially mating the second sealing surface.

2. (Previously Presented) The axial shaft seal as recited in claim 1, wherein the inward end portion of the sleeve includes a circumscribing ring extending in a radial direction.

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